

Cohasset Hoop Team In Tie For First Place

By Steve MacQuarrie

Cohasset's basketball team went through a pair of unusual experiences last week. First they found themselves alone atop the South Shore League after a 60-57 win at Duxbury Tuesday night. Then they

were the victims of a bona fide upset, losing 64-63 to a Hanover team which entered the game with a 2-7 record.

Their win at Duxbury got them into first place by themselves, as the two teams were tied for first coming into the game. The Skippers played

their best basketball of the season running off 10 straight points en route to a 17-9 first quarter lead. With Brian Keating and Paul Farren scoring from inside and controlling the rebounds, and Mark Goff (11 first half points) hitting from the perimeter, the lead got to as much as 16 (27-11) midway through the second quarter.

Here the teams tried role reversal, with the Skippers turning the ball over 6 times in less than four minutes and Duxbury scoring 12 straight points to pull within 4 at the half. Duxbury's man-to-man pressure continued to bother the visitors in the third period (8 Cohasset turnovers) and the Skippers trailed 47-46 at the end of three. Only a 10 point third quarter effort by Farren kept Duxbury from running away with the game.

The fourth quarter was an emotional and scoreboard pendulum as the lead changed hands 7 times, finally coming to rest on the Skipper side of the ledger with 43 seconds left as guard John Howley stole a Duxbury pass, was fouled and then, with 43 seconds left, swished a pair of foul shots to make it 56-55. Howley calmly added 2 more free throws 30 seconds later making the score 58-55 and sending Duxbury coach Foster Cass over to Cohasset coach John LeVangie for a congratulatory handshake and an acknowledgement of defeat.

Duxbury has some big names, including 6'9" Brian Connors and soccer All-American Colin McEvoy. But it was a pair of lesser knowns — 6'2" forward Gordon Cushing, who scored 15 and battled Farren toe to toe all night and 5'9" guard John Andrews, who added 12 and harassed Howley all over the court, who almost won it for the Green Dragons.

For the Skippers, Farren, the 6'5" senior was immense, scoring 24 points and adding

15 rebounds to lead both teams in those categories. Goff and Keating provided most of the rest of the offense with 13 and 11 points respectively.

Though the Skippers often looked sloppy against Duxbury's pressure defense and could manage only 4 fast break points, their composure in the final quarter was decisive, as they outscored Duxbury 10-4 in the last three minutes.

That same last minute composure was net in evidence against Hanover. After three years as the scourge of the South Shore League, the Hanoverians have fallen on hard times, and it seemed for much of this game that those times were not getting any softer. Cohasset seemed to have a lock on the game, leading by 10 late in the third quarter over a team they had already defeated (57-51) earlier in the

year. But the fourth quarter turned into a nightmare. Co-captain Paul Farren got into foul trouble, the Skippers had severe difficulties from the foul line and Hanover outscored them 17-6 down the stretch, winning the game on a foul shot of their own in the waning seconds. High scorers for the losers were Brian Keating with 22 points and co-captain Matt Salerne, who had 20.

The loss reduced Cohasset's record to 9-3 and dropped them back into a tie for first — just where they had begun the week. This time, however, it was a four-way knot — with Duxbury, Holbrook and Middleboro sharing the other pieces.

The Skippers take to the road for their next three games — at Abington Friday night, at East Bridgewater Tuesday and at Norfolk Aggie next Thursday.

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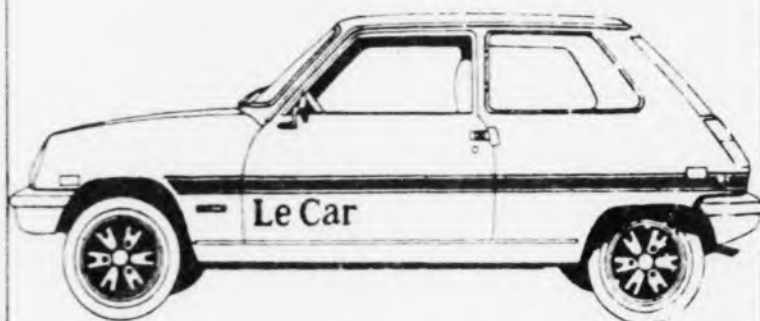
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Wrestlers Lose To Duxbury

Duxbury had too much experience and defeated Cohasset wrestlers last week, 52-10.

Bright lights for the Skippers were a 126-pound division tie gained by Jack Hernan, another deadlock at 145 pounds by Craig Langford and a close but no cigar performance by Rick Hobson in the 157 bracket. Cohasset's Paul Stockbridge also earned a forfeit at 185 pounds, leaving the Skippers with a 3-3 mark whereas the Dragons are 6-1.

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